

so much a part of us that we almost take it for granted that nothing can be done about it. What may originate as a simple desire may mature into a lustful will and it is important that we do not trifle with even the "small" things discussed in the law. Coveting, according to the knowledge of God, is ruled out and we must see it that way and act accordingly

The Tenth Command: Some particulars

The items forbidden in coveting must be noticed. It is not an exhaustive list but mentions some specific things and follows these with the general "anything" that is your neighbors. The concept of neighbor is precisely that of the 9th command. Objects that belong to the neighbor are the most apparent to your view and thereby most likely to be the object of covetousness.

"Your neighbor's house" is more than just a physical property including the concept of family inheritance, business, and the physical features more commonly associated with his property. Since we often compare our lot with others and come up with an inferior view of our own possessions, it is easy to see another's house and desire it for ourselves. This increases our area of discontent and makes it increasingly difficult for us to praise the Lord for what we have been given.

"Your neighbor's wife" is the second item of account. One cannot help but think of David and the Bathsheba episode when one studies this command. David, with a family of wives, looked at Uriah's wife and coveted her... scheming for a means to have her for himself. This covetousness led to deceit, adultery and murder. Why David coveted Bathsheba, other than for the occasion of lust, we do not know. But his actions indicate one big reason why one should keep his attention from his neighbor's wife.